

JAMES LEE ADAMS, JR.**5358 Schley Road
Camilla, Georgia 31730-5310****J. L. Adams Farms, Inc.
E & J Farm Management
S & J Farms****Phone: 229-336-8298
FAX: 229-336-1266
email: jlafarm@bigplanet.com**

February 12, 2003

Country of Origin Labeling

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

Attn: William T Session, Associate Deputy of Administration

Stop 0249 Room 2092-S

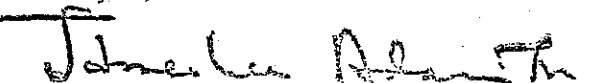
1400 Independence Ave. SW

Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear Mr. Sessions:

This week in Camilla, Georgia, state inspectors found a million pounds of pecans infested with rats and rat excrement. These pecans will be destroyed and will never be in the marketplace. Can you give assurances to the United States consumer that they will have the same protection concerning pecans (and other products) grown in other countries? As a former member of APAC (Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee on Trade to USDA and USTR), I can assure you that the phiosanitary protections that we insist on in the U.S. are violated often in other countries. Our consumers need to have the opportunity to be able to make a choice between U.S. grown (and inspected and protected) products and those produced elsewhere. Also, because of inspections in the U.S., we U.S. producers are not having our market sales threatened by consumer fears of "looking the over way" inspections. To continue to not allow the U.S. consumer to differentiate between safe U.S. production and suspect foreign product is both threatening to the health of the consumer and the confidence that is needed to sustain sales. In addition, with the growing threat of bio-terrorism, is the consumer served by keeping him/her in the dark as to the national origin of foodstuffs?

Thank you,


James Lee Adams